

# MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

*Director:* David Palumbo-Liu

*Committee in Charge:* Lanier Anderson, A. Aneesh, Anthony Antonio, Eamonn Callan, Richard Ford, Theodore L. Glasser, Hans U. Gumbrecht, Akhil Gupta, Pamela Lee, Timothy Lenoir, Andrea A. Lunsford, Purmina Mankekar, David Palumbo-Liu, Peggy Phelan, Richard Rosa, Robert Weisberg, Bryan Wolf, Yvonne Yarbrow-Bejarano

*Affiliated Faculty:* Lanier Anderson (Philosophy), A. Aneesh (Science, Technology, and Society), Anthony Antonio (Education), Joel Beinin (History), Brett Bourbon (English), Elisabeth Boyi (French and Italian), Scott Bukatman (Art and Art History), Eamonn Callan (Education), Albert Camarillo (History), Terry Castle (English), Paulla Ebron (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Harry Elam (Drama), Jay Fliegelman (English), Richard Ford (Law), Theodore Glasser (Communication), Roland Greene (English, Comparative Literature), Hans U. Gumbrecht (French and Italian), Akhil Gupta (Cultural and Social Anthropology), David Halliburton (English), Donna Jones (English), Matthew Kohrman (Cultural and Social Anthropology, on leave), Miyako Inoue (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Pamela Lee (Art and Art History), Timothy Lenoir (History), Andrea A. Lunsford (English), Purnima Mankekar (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Paula Moya (English), Sianne Ngai (English), Susan Okin (Political Science), David Palumbo-Liu (Comparative Literature), Peggy Phelan (Drama), Robert Polhemus (English), Arnold Rampersad (English), Jessica Riskin (History), Richard Rosa (Spanish and Portuguese), Ramón Saldívar (English, Comparative Literature), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Jeffrey Schnapp (French and Italian), Helen M. Stacy (Institute for International Studies), Peter Stansky (History), Elizabeth Traugott (Linguistics), Robert Weisberg (Law), Richard White (History, on leave), Bryan Wolf (Art and Art History), Sylvia Yanagisako (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Yvonne Yarbrow-Bejarano (Spanish and Portuguese)

*Program Offices:* Building 250, Room 251F

*Mail Code:* 94305-2020

*Phone:* (650) 723-3413

*Email:* idstudies.moore@stanford.edu

*Web Site:* <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/MTL>

Courses given in Modern Thought and Literature have the subject code MTL. For a complete list of subject codes, see Appendix B.

The Program in Modern Thought and Literature is administered through the office of Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities. The program admits students for the Ph.D. and a very limited number for a coterminal B.A./M.A. Program.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Although Modern Thought and Literature has no formal undergraduate degree granting program, undergraduate students who are interested in completing a major in this field may do so through the undergraduate major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities (see that section of this bulletin). This undergraduate program is designed for students with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary study in the various humanities. Students may devise majors that incorporate modern literature (since the 18th century), cultural history, and critical theory. Students may also create majors in other interdisciplinary concentrations such as Film Studies. For specific course guidelines, see the undergraduate *Handbook for the Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*. Students wishing to declare the major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities must apply for admission to the Humanities Honors Program and for graduation with honors in Humanities.

## COTERMINAL BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S PROGRAM

Each year, one or two undergraduate students, who are exceptionally well prepared in literature and at least one foreign language, and whose undergraduate course work includes a strong interdisciplinary component, may petition to be admitted to the program for the purpose of completing a coterminal M.A. degree. Admission to this program is granted only on condition that in the course of working on their master's degree they do not apply to enter the Ph.D. program in Modern Thought and Literature. The deadline for application is February 16.

To apply, applicants submit:

1. An unofficial grade transcript from AXESS.
2. A "Petition for Admission to the Coterminal Program" from Degree Progress in the Registrar's Office.
3. A statement giving the reasons the student wishes to pursue this program and its place in his or her future plans. This statement should pay particular attention to the reasons why the student could not pursue the studies he or she desires in some other way.
4. A plan of study listing, quarter by quarter, each course by name, units, and instructor, to be taken in order to fulfill the requirements for the degree for a total of 45 units, including at least 20 units of advanced work in one literature, and at least 20 units in a coherent interdisciplinary program of courses taken in non-literature departments.
5. A writing sample of critical or analytical prose.
6. Two letters of recommendation from members of the faculty who know the applicant well and who can speak directly to the question of his or her ability to do graduate-level work.

## REQUIREMENTS

The candidate for the M.A. must complete at least 45 units of graduate work, to be divided in the following manner:

1. The introductory seminar, MTL 334A, 5 units
2. At least 20 units of advanced course work in literature, to be approved by the director.
3. At least 20 units of course work in a coherent and individually arranged interdisciplinary program, to be approved by the director.

By the end of the course of study, each candidate must also demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature is an interdisciplinary program combining work in modern literary/cultural studies with work in one or more other modern disciplines.

The Ph.D. program is designed specifically for students who have a strong interest in literature or culture, but whose approach or focus requires an interdisciplinary program; for example, students interested in anthropological or philosophical approaches to literature and culture; gender studies; ethnic studies; or in topics such as legal humanities, popular culture, and social or cultural theory.

Modern Thought and Literature is intended for students who plan to teach and write in literature departments or in interdisciplinary programs in the humanities, cultural studies, or humanistic social sciences, or for students intending to formulate cultural policy.

Course work in the program is divided about evenly between advanced courses in literature departments and advanced courses in non-literary departments.

## MASTER OF ARTS

The Master of Arts is available to students who are admitted to the doctoral program. Students are not admitted into the program for the purpose of earning a terminal Master of Arts degree. Candidates for the Ph.D. who satisfy the committee of their progress and satisfactorily complete 45 units of course work forming a coherent program of study, may apply for an M.A. in Modern Thought and Literature.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

University requirements for the Ph.D. are discussed in the “Graduate Degrees” section of this bulletin.

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree in Modern Thought and Literature must complete three years (nine quarters) of full-time work, or the equivalent, in graduate study beyond the B.A. degree. He or she is expected to complete at least 18 courses of graduate work in addition to the dissertation. Students may spend one year of graduate study abroad.

Requirements for the Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature are:

1. A two-quarter introductory seminar, MTL 334A,B, The Modern Tradition I and II (5 units each, Autumn, Winter) followed by MTL 300, The Modern Thought and Literature Colloquium (1 unit, Spring).
2. A coherent program of eight courses of advanced work in literary studies to be worked out with the adviser, of which at least six must be regularly scheduled courses in literature. Courses in the teaching of composition (ENGLISH 396, 397), ad hoc graduate seminars (MTL 395), research courses (MTL 398), and thesis registration (MTL 802) may not be counted among these six courses; MTL 396L, 397, 399, 802 may not be counted toward these requirements under any circumstances.
3. Eight courses of advanced work in non-literature departments, the core of which is completion of either a departmental minor or an interdepartmental concentration, typically consisting of six courses. Departmental minors are available from the departments of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Art and Art History, Communication, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology (see the relevant information in those sections of this bulletin). Approved interdepartmental concentrations have been established in popular culture, ethnic studies, feminist and gender studies, and science and technology studies (specific course requirements are available from the program office). Individually designed concentrations may be approved by petition to the director. In addition to the required six courses in a minor or a concentration, two additional courses from non-literature departments are chosen in consultation with each student’s academic adviser. Course restrictions noted above in item 2 also apply.
4. *Qualifying Paper*: this certifies that students are likely to be able to undertake the quality of research, sustained argumentation, and cogent writing demanded in a doctoral dissertation. The qualifying paper must be a substantial revision of a seminar paper written at Stanford during the first year and should embody a substantial amount of independent research, develop an intellectual argument with significant elements of original thinking, and demonstrate the ability to do interdisciplinary work. Each paper is evaluated by two or three readers (designated before the end of the first year of graduate study), one of whom must be a member of the Committee in Charge. Qualifying papers must be submitted to the program office no later than the end of the third week of the fifth quarter of enrollment, normally, winter of the second year.
5. Teaching, an essential part of the program, is normally undertaken in conjunction with the Department of English. Candidates are required to demonstrate competence in teaching.
6. Students must demonstrate, by the end of the third quarter of the first year, a reading knowledge of one foreign language and, by the beginning of the first quarter of the third year, a reading knowledge of one other foreign language. Reading knowledge means the ability to make a genuine scholarly use of the language: that is, to read prose of ordinary difficulty.

Students may not take the University oral examination before completion of the foreign language requirement.

7. *Candidacy*: at the end of the second year, students apply for candidacy. The following qualifications are required before candidacy can be certified: the earlier submission of a satisfactory qualifying paper, demonstration of a reading knowledge of one foreign language; satisfactory progress in course work; a list of courses applicable to the degree, distinguishing between courses appropriate to the liter-

ary component and courses appropriate to the interdisciplinary component; designation of a departmental minor or an interdisciplinary concentration; and the submission of a statement outlining the scope and coherence of the interdisciplinary component of the program in relation to the literary component and noting the relevance of the course work to that program.

8. *Annual Review*: the program and progress of each student must be approved by the Committee in Charge at the end of each academic year.
9. *University Oral Examination*: this examination, covering the student’s areas of concentration, normally is taken in the third year of graduate study. It is a two-hour oral examination administered by four faculty members specializing in the student’s areas of concentration, and a chair from another department. The exam is based on a substantial reading list prepared by the student in conjunction with the faculty committee and designed to cover the areas of expertise pertinent to the student’s dissertation project.
10. *Colloquium on the Dissertation Proposal*: sometime after the University oral examination, or in conjunction with that examination, the dissertation committee assembles for up to one hour to discuss the dissertation proposal with the student. Prior to this meeting, the student should have consulted each member of the committee to discuss the proposal and compile a bibliography.
11. *Dissertation*: the fourth and fifth years are devoted to the dissertation, which should be a substantial and original contribution acceptable to the Committee on Modern Thought and Literature. The subject is drawn from the literature of specialization and the area of nonliterary studies.

## HUMANITIES

The program participates in the Graduate Program in Humanities leading to a joint Ph.D. degree in Modern Thought and Literature and Humanities. For a description of the Humanities program, see the “Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities” section of this bulletin.

## COURSES

Students interested in literature and literary studies should also consult course listings in the departments of Asian Languages, Classics, Comparative Literature, English, French and Italian, German Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese, and in the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. For other offerings, students should consult listings in the individual departments of interest. Consent of instructor is often required.

Students in the doctoral program in Modern Thought and Literature are advised to read through the offerings in English as well as offerings of the non-literature departments in which they wish to concentrate: for example, courses dealing with culture listed under Cultural and Social Anthropology, courses dealing with film under Communication or Art and Art History, courses in intellectual and cultural history under History. If the area of nonliterary interest is thematic rather than disciplinary, doctoral students should look under program listings such as Feminist Studies, African and African American Studies, or Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity.

**MTL 120A. Introduction to Queer Studies**—(Enroll in FEMST 120.)  
5 units, Spr (Arellano)

**MTL 140B. Arab American Studies: Race, Gender, and Representation**—(Enroll in FEMST 140B.)  
5 units, Win (Alsultany)

**MTL 140C. Acting Like a Man: Masculinities in American Cinema**—(Enroll in FEMST 140C.)  
5 units, Win (Dass)

**MTL 140D. Eating the Other: Race, Gender, and the Body**—(Enroll in FEMST 140D.)  
4-5 units, Spr (Tompkins)

**MTL 175. Individual Work**—For undergraduates only.

*2-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 280. Interdisciplinary Pedagogy: Race and Social Justice**—

The Graduate Workshop in Interdisciplinary Pedagogy: Race and Social Justice is a collective of graduate students from disciplines interested in pedagogy for social justice who interview faculty; design syllabi and teaching portfolios; support each other while teaching; discuss and critique course assignments, readings, and discussion formats; and discuss approaches to addressing issues of race and social justice in the classroom.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr (Monroe, Simpson)*

**MTL 300. Modern Thought and Literature Colloquium**—Required

of first-year graduate students in the program; open to all students in the program and to others by consent of instructor. Weekly meeting of students in the program to discuss interdisciplinary scholarship, writing, and issues pertaining to the requirements for the Ph.D. Presentations by affiliated faculty and by student panels.

*1-3 units, Spr (Palumbo-Liu)*

**MTL 334A. The Modern Tradition I**—(Same as COMPLIT 334A.)

Preference to first-year graduate students in Modern Thought and Literature and Comparative Literature. Basic texts that have formed the foundation for contemporary cultural and social theory including Marx, Weber, Freud, Durkheim, and Boas.

*5 units, Aut (Palumbo-Liu)*

**MTL 334B. The Modern Tradition II**—(Same as COMPLIT 334B.)

Responses, refutations, elaborations, modifications to basic texts in critical theory such as Western Marxism, Lacan, Althusser, Geertz, and postcolonial, postmodern, and feminist theory. Prerequisite: 334A.

*3-5 units, Win (Palumbo-Liu)*

**MTL 390. Qualifying Paper**—Preparation and writing of the qualifying paper for the Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 395. Ad Hoc Graduate Seminar**—Graduate students (three or more) who wish to study a subject or an area not covered by regular courses and seminars may plan an informal seminar and approach a suitable member of the faculty to supervise it.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum*

**MTL 396L. Pedagogy Seminar I**—(Enroll in ENGLISH 396L.)

*2 units, Aut (Lerer)*

**MTL 397. Teaching Praxis**—For Modern Thought and Literature doctoral students only. Teaching experience. Consent of program director required.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 398. Research**—Students pursue a special subject of investigation under supervision of a member of the committee or another faculty member. Thesis work is not to be registered under this number.

*1-15 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 399. Reading for Orals**—Reading in preparation for the University Oral Examination.

*1-15 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum*

**MTL 400. Symposium**—Preparation for and participation in the annual student symposium.

*1-5 units, Win, Spr (Palumbo-Liu)*

This file has been excerpted from the *Stanford Bulletin*, 2003-04, pages 485-487. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; post-press changes may have been made here. Contact the editor of the bulletin at [arod@stanford.edu](mailto:arod@stanford.edu) with changes or corrections. See the bulletin website at <http://bulletin.stanford.edu> for late changes.